LOCAL I-S WEWS

for department store workers

Vol. 10, No. 1

264

August, 1958

HEALTH PLAN WON TEN YEARS AGO; BENEFITS PAID NOW TOP \$3 MILLION



1700 babies—and ten years—ago, Joan DeCamp was born. She was the first to be covered by the Health Plan won by Local 1-S. More than 29,000 claims have been paid since.

Up until ten years ago this August 2nd all Macy workers had to contribute to the Macy Mutual Aid fund in order to provide themselves with modest sick leave benefits. They had no other protection against the high cost of illness.

Plan, negotiated by Local 1-S and incorporated into the contract with Macy a, went into effect.

In the years that have gone by since that great day, the Health Plan has paid out the huge sum of \$3,110,038 to cover the cost of hospitalization, in-hospital medical and surgical care, X-rays and other laboratory examinations,

and doctor's office or at-home surgical care.

Since last June 30th, the Health Plan has paid a total of \$452,579 on a total of 5,474 Group Health Insurance claims and 1,597 hospitalization claims. GHI payments added up to \$185,937, and Blue

Cross payments came to \$266,641. In the nine full years since the Health Plan was won, payments by Blue Cross have mounted to a total of \$2,052,559, while claims paid by Group Health have climbed to \$1,058,040.

1-S Babies

Babies born during the life of

the Health Plan have totalled a tidy 1,708, with 61 of them born during the last year alone.

Covered by the Plan are all of the Union's members, plus their husbands or wives and children under 19 years of age.

When the Health Plan was first won members were required to pay a sum of 50 cents a month towards their coverage. Subsequent negotiations led to Macy's paying the entire cost of maintaining the plan.

Still later, the Union was able to win the addition of diagnostic laboratory examinations with a value of as much as \$75 per year for each member of the family covered by the Plan.

Side by side with the Health Plan, the Union has succeeded in winning steadily improved Sick Leave pay, which now is at an alltime high up to \$48 a week.

The combined protection of the Health Plan and Sick Leave plan provide ailing members with real security at a time when it is needed the most.

No Surprises

It is therefore not at all surprising that thousands of 1-S'ers write every year to sing the praises of both the Health Plan and the Union that won it. On the Health Plan's anniversary, President Sam Kovenetsky said, "In the years since we secured our Health Plan a total of nearly 29,000 members and their dependents have received direct benefits.

"The three million dollars paid out by the Plan would have had to come from the pockets of those 29,000 if our united strength had not won us this most important benefit.

"Local 1-S' members and officers are all proud of this accomplishment. We are determined to preserve and extend the many gains our unity has achieved."

Worth Talking About



By President Sam Kovenetsky

THE LONG SERIES OF HEARINGS by the McClellan Committee has finally resulted in the passage of a new labor act by the Senate. This is expected to soon go to the House of Representatives, where anti-labor forces hope to make it even tougher than it is.

The Kennedy-Ives Bill, as passed by the Senate, represents one more step towards government domination and control over the American trade union movement.

While it is difficult to argue against many specific sections of the Bill, it is important to bear in mind that no other type of membership organization in the country is subject to such tight control and regulations. And it is this to which we, and all other thinking trade unionists, should be opposed.

WE WARNED, AT THE START OF THE McClellan Committee hearings that the object was not simply to expose corruption, but to use that corruption as an excuse for new anti-labor laws aimed at all unions.

We said then that such corruption could not and would not exist in democratic unions—and we expressed the hope that the labor movement's answer to the revelations of abuse and dishonesty would be to stimulate the kind of democracy on which we in Local 1-S have always prided ourselves.

We also said that in our opinion the code of ethical practices that was adopted by the AFL-CIO was all that was needed to guarantee the cleaning out of undesirable elements and the maintaining of the high standards to which the vast majority of the labor movement has always been dedicated.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE National Association of Manufacturers has come out with a flat demand that Congress either make the new law a lot tougher or that it be dropped entirely. What the NAM is attempting is an open blackmailing of the Congress.

The immediate danger is that the House of Representatives will amend the bill to include tougher restrictions—and that the Senate majority will go along with those amendments!

This raises for all of labor the important question of principle versus expediency. Do we quietly accept this "moderate" bill for fear of a tougher one—or do we fight down the line against the principle of government intrusion and licensing of our free trade unions? At the present rate, our unions in this country will be subject to more control and restraints than those in any other nation of the free world.

WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT WE believe that the government has all the laws that are needed to prosecute crimes. And we believe, further, that the government has the obligation, as well as the right, to bring before the bar of justice anyone—be he a representative of labor or management—who criminally disregards the law.

But when the government presumes to decide how long a union may be held in trusteeship by an international union; how often local union elections should be held; how a union is to report its finances; who is eligible to hold union office; how elections are to be conducted, etc., it becomes all too clear that the members themselves are being stripped of their democratic rights and authority to make such vital decisions.

SENATOR PAT McNAMARA OF MICHIGAN SAID, "I object most strongly to the section (of the bill) which would require the Federal Government to compel labor union members to choose their officers by secret ballot."

The Bill says, "Every local labor organization engaged in industry affecting commerce shall elect its constitutional officers not less often than every four years by secret ballot among members in good standing and in accordance with its constitution and by-laws."

ing and in accordance with its constitution and by-laws."

Said Senator McNamara, "At first glance, this language appears to carry on the time-honored and seemingly sancrosanct American elec-

tion tradition of the secret ballot.

"Upon closer scrutiny, however, this section represents an unwarranted, and I believe, extremely dangerous, Federal intrusion into the internal affairs of a non-profit organization.

"In effect, this section seeks to dictate democracy to free peoples.... For the first time, to my knowledge, the government would undertake to compel Americans to exercise democracy according to a rigid standard laid down by Federal law.... Such a procedure violates the very essence and meaning of democracy...."

In my opinion, this goes for the entire bill. I therefore urge every member to write TODAY and ask your Congressman to speak against and vote against this anti-labor violation of our democratic rights!

'Fight Fire With Fire'; Board Urges Crackdown on Contract Violations

The Local 1-S Executive Board, at its regular meeting held on June 24 under the chairmanship of Vice President Phil Hoffstein, heard President Sam Kovenetsky urge that the members fight "fire with fire"; praised the members for refusing to use the 8th Floor vending machines; approved committee reports; backed the 1958 Greater New York Fund campaign; approved a report on the recent RWDSU convention; and accepted the resignation of a Board member.

In response to a statement by Jerry Harte (5th Fl.) that supervisors are approaching and servicing customers, President Kovenetsky declared that, "The company fought us on this contract clause banning executive staff work.

"The membership stayed out on the street until it was secured. If the people themselves won't stand up and write grievances on these executives, then our Board members must take the initiative.

"Write them up at once," the President said. "Macy's must be aware that while we want to live at peace under the contract we cannot and will not tolerate continued violations. We must be firm now, or we will be dictated to by Macy's at negotiations, and I

would not want to serve under those conditions. "We mean business! We will

fight fire with fire!"

Vending Machines

Rose Novak (Cafeteria) thanked the Board and the membership for their help in carrying out the decision to "starve the vending machines."

A continued boycott of the machines, which ultimately would replace a considerable number of man-hours of cafeteria work, was urged.

It is expected that if the automatic food dispensers do not show a substantial profit they will be removed—and with them the threat to jobs of Union members will also be removed.

COPE

Dorothea Andrews (8th Fl.) reported for the Local 1-S Committee on Political Education (COPE).

She announced that September 17 had been set as the tentative date for resumption of the Union's series of round table conferences. A debate on the Taft-Hartley Act is scheduled to open the new session.

Vice President Phil Hoffstein urged that all Board members "take a much more active part on developing the Union's political action program."

"This applies," he said, "to be important job of persuading more members to be active on the committee, of actively advancing the current campaign for COPE memberships, and of helping to get out the vote in November so that we can elect good representatives who will be concerned with the problems and needs of ordinary people like way."

New York Fund

Vice President Bill Atkinson who this year will represent Local 1-S in the joint labor-management campaign for the Greater New York Fund, announced that planning meetings, including members of the Board, would begin on September 2 and continue through the 12th.

The Board urged that in support of the campaign there be "more publicity, more solicitors and more meetings."

Convention Report

President Kovenetsky reported on the RWDSU convention.

He informed the Board that he and 1-S delegate Jerry Harte took the convention floor in opposition to a proposal that all local affliates have a minimum dues payment of \$3 a month. The proposal was subsequently withdrawn.

He also reported that all 18 delegates participated in such important convention bodies as the Constitution, Resolutions, Nominating and Floor Committees.

Vice President Phil Hoffstein was chairman of the Floor Committee.

He and the entire 1-S delegation received personal commendation from RWDSU President Mar Greenberg for the outstanding put they played.

Resignation

The Board accepted, with regret the resignation of Veronica Fruites, formerly representing the ASD.

Annual Local 1-8 Leader Meeting On October 1st

The annual all-day conference of Local 1-S Executive Board members and shop stewards will be held on October 1st, Presidest Kovenetsky announced.

"This conference," the President said, "will come just a few short months before the expiration of our contract.

"To be most fruitful, it is absolutely necessary that division and department leaders be in a position to know what is on the mind of the people they represent, and to be able to speak authoritatively for them."

It is our profound conviction that only when the people know the facts are they fully capable of making correct decisions and of carrying out a correct program of action. We believe that ill-informed or misinformed people present the gravest of all threats to our democratic principles and to a democratic system of government.

Our policy will be guided solely by determining whether or not a given thing is good for the workers, because we fully agree with the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln . . . "That which harms labor is treason for America."

We will not engage in ideological debate, but will bear in mind

A RESTATEMENT OF POLICY

ON OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Local 1-S, have received no relief from oppressive anti-labor legis-

lation and they are burdened with the growing threat of economic

disaster. They need be armed well to win relief, avert disaster and to protect not only their jobs, but their economic and political

Union members need and deserve a paper which brings to them the news, specific facts and general information which most directly

concerns them in their jobs, their union and the world in which they

live. They need a paper to serve their ends, reflect their thinking and respect their wishes. To meet this need the Executive Board has

brought this paper into being subject to your continuing approval.

As our Union has been a remorseless fighter against discrimination in its many forms, so too will this paper fight.

discussion of the issues, so too will this paper open its pages.

As our Union has struggled for the economic well-being and

security of its members, so too will this paper struggle for those

attainment of true democracy, so too is this newspaper dedicated.

As our Union has been dedicated to the continuing fight for the

As our Union has opened its meeting floors to full and free

The workers of this country, including our 8,000 members of

We will not engage in ideological debate, but will bear in mind that we have successfully united all shades of political opinion as well as representatives of all races and creeds, around a program of economic action for the well-being of all. We will concern ourselves with the issues which bear on that program.

HELP!

LEGAL CLINIC SOCIAL SERVICE COMPENSATION AID

Free of Charge

During July and August Call the Union Office For Any Help You Need

Services Resume at the Union on Wednesday after Labor Day

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly except June, July, August when published monthly by

LOCAL 1-S DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS UNION, RWDSU, AFL-CIO 290 Seventh Avenue New York 1, N. Y.

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1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein 2nd Vice Pres.: William Atkinson

Editorial Board
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Editor: Dick Pastor
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What makes a Union strong? The devotion members show to the principles of unionism! With this in mind, it is absolutely necessary that each worker appoint himself a monitor to see that our contract is lived up to. So, if you see an ASM ringing up sales, waiting on customers, or otherwise violating our contract, don't wait to tell it to a Shop Steward. YOU have the right to stop these violations. Also, lets' remember that we are all Union members. Let's stop the

nasty practice of tattling on fellow-workers. . . . Condolences to Lillian Hackel (Candy) who lost her husband, and Dick Dworkin (Furniture) who lost his mother. . . . Isabel Swain Toys and Luggage) is resigning and will move to Florida.... On the sick list: Sylvia List (Music); Dotty McCrum (Silver); and Ruth Krinick (Dresses). Let's hope they are all back soon in full health. . . . Abe Shames (Sporting Goods) was transferred to Jamaica, and Marvin Barksdale (Stock) was promoted to Housewares. . . . Rissi Moscowitz (Upholstery) who's always asking to see her name in print has finally made it. But she had to go all the way to California to do it. . . . Speaking of grandmothers, Lee Cohen (Service Desk) has joined the ranks. But our champion grandmother in the store is Julia Burke, Telephone operator, who is the mother of four and boasts 15 grandchildren. That's keeping the stork busy!

PARKCHESTER

Your reporter has been away on vacation and had no opportunity to gather the news and notes of happenings around the store. A thousand apologies to those whose activities would have otherwise made headlines. I can only hope that veryone had just as wonderful a time on their vacation as I did on mine. . . . Three of us—Evelyn Sexton, Georgiana Flood and myself took a ten day cruise. Our itinerary included the islands of Nassau and Cuba. Despite the unsettled political situation, we had a wonderful time

Fay Abbate

in Havana. We came home wishing that such good things did not have to come to an end. . . . But now that we are back we are once again concerned with some basic, down-to-earth matters. It would seem to this writer that it is never enough to just have our Union win a good contract. We have the responsibility to see that it is lived up to and fully enforced. Otherwise the words on the piece of paper don't mean a thing. We can't stand idly by and watch executives do staff work, just because it makes our work load a little lighter. In the end our ad will become so light that Macy's will be able to do without some of us. Let's not fall into a trap like that! Let's work together to keep our Union-and our contract-strong. It's our only protection!

JAMAICA



had a fishing party on her boat "Lady M," for the boys in the Furniture Department. Her husband, Dr. Craw was skipper. . . . Toni Nastasi (Notions) is getting married in St. Pascal Church on the 6th of September. We wish her luck. . . . Giovanni Beale is now Shop Steward for our Stock boys. He also recently won first Mary Edwards prize for the biggest sea bass caught in a contest off Montauk. . . . Alice Ainsworth's son is heading for Lebanon with

Irene Lee, formerly a demonstrator for Chow

Mein has opened her own restaurant at 57th St.

and Park Avenue. . . . Marge Craw (Children's)

the U.S. Marines. We wish him a happy landing and a quick return. ... Mildred Washington (J15) lost her brother recently. We extend our heartfelt sympathy. . . . Lenny Berta (Records) is heading for a three month tour of Europe. . . . BEING WED: Forest McMullin, whose mother is at the Service Desk; Paula Olivetta's sister; Betty McCornick's (Fabrica) described for the service of the s mick's (Fabric) daughter; Evelyn Korn's (J5) daughter; and Marge Duwe's (Glassware) daughter. . . . Our deepest sympathy to Evelyn Korn on the recent loss of her father. . . . Mr. Faro (Furrier) proud of his daughter's graduation. . . . Evelyn Whitfield is out ill, and will need surgery.

WHITE PLAINS

We are sorry to hear that Lena Ravoli (Fabrics) is out sick. Also among the missing are Margaret Klein and Mrs. Stunkle (both of Men's). We sincerely hope they will all be back real soon. . . . We also hope that Winnie Mc-Cauley (Order Board) will return soon from her sick leave. . . . We are glad to see that Eva Manley (Order Board) is back with us after an extended sick leave. Welcome back, Eva. . . . We hope that Kay (Freddy) Frederiksen (Lamps)



Cathy Goodenow

enjoyed her vacation in Florrisant, Missouri Russ Bagley visiting her sister and brother-in-law.... Frances Petluck (Silver) also visited with relatives. She vacationed with her daughter in Alabama.... Congratulations to Mrs. Hull on her promotion from Stationery to Cosmetics. . . . We hope that just because many of us are on vacation, the blood bank will not be neglected. We had a good start, but must continue our efforts. . . . With job reviews here it is important to remember to take a pad and pencil (or get a union form from your Shop Steward) and take accurate notes on your review. If there are any problems after you've gotten your review, be sure to see your Shop neward immediately. That's the only way real problems can be straightened out. . . . Hope everyone enjoys a pleasant vacation and keeps us posted on all the news.



Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and Bill Atkinson, together with Administrators Frank Milza and Jack Jampole are shown at one session of the Industrial Union Department conference. President Kovenetsky and other staff members attended different session. Feeling was that conference fell short of mark.

Labor Conference Hits 'Wreck' Laws; Misses Boat on Senate Labor Act

pants, including those from Local

1-S, felt that the opportunity was

The second annual conference of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO represented a golden opportunity for the unions to advance a positive program for dealing with such pressing prob-lems as anti-labor legislation, the economic crisis and organization.

The two-day conference was

notable for a succession of labor, political and church leaders who all spoke strongly on the merits of the union shop and the evils of the so-called "right to work" laws. Unfortunately, many partici-

The trade unionists who were present were not the people who needed convincing.

The seriousness of the lost opportunity can best be judged when it is realized that the conference took place at the very time that the Senate was debating and voting on the Kennedy-Ives bill to regulate unions.

The presence of labor representatives from all sections of the country provided an excellent opportunity for the Industrial Union Department to speak out clearly for a program aimed at meeting some of the urgent problems confronting organized and unorganized workers in all 48 or 49 states.

The conference neither spoke out nor worked to mobilize the rank-and-file.

With millions unemployed, still more millions unorganized, and a new legislative axe hanging over the labor movement's head, every meeting and every conference must produce more practical re-sults than this one did, many delegates agreed.

The RWDSU delegation to Washington, D.C. was the kind of gathering that discusses issues and then acts on them. Labor needs more of them.

COPE Member Drive Challenged By NAM Drive for Anti-Labor Law

"All we have to do is watch the NAM and we'll know what to do," said Charles Boyd, Chairman of the Local 1-S Committee on Political Education (COPE).

He was referring to the all-out drive by the National Association of Manufacturers to win passage of a new and tough anti-labor law at this session of Congress.

The Local 1-S COPE group is now in the midst of its own all-out drive for dollar membership subscriptions aimed at guaranteeing that labor's voice will be heard in the November elections.

COPE is labor's non-partisan political arm. It's purpose is to raise the funds needed to publicize labor's own political program and to back the candidacies of men and women, regardless of party, whose platform supports labor's aims for the common good.

In support of its drive, the Local 1-S group has sent a letter to every member appealing for their understanding and backing. The committee is also offering

a group of wonderful prizes to the holders of the lucky COPE membership card numbers. The winning numbers will be

drawn at the annual Local 1-S Shop Stewards conference in the

Labor needs more friends in Congress if we are to win the kind of laws we want and need. COPE can help put them there. Join



Dramatic group, sponsored by the Local I-S Activities Committee, is seen going over a script with actor-director Julius Abrams. The group is scheduled to begin regular meetings by early September.



CAMP DAYS ARE HAPPY DAYS—Children of Local I-S members, and others, leave for camps and Friendly Towns in Connecticut and New York. Camp vacations are made possible through Union's outstanding participation in annual Greater New York Fund Campaign and cooperation of the Fresh Air fund. Local I-S is sending a total of

more than 65 youngsters off this summer for two-week periods. Parents of campers are urged to send camp and Friendly Town snapshots to the Local I-S NEWS for publication. Photos will be returned. All members are urged to support coming Greater New York Fund campaign, through which 425 vital social service agencies are maintained.

BLOOD BANK BALANCE SHEET

Blood released during June, the first month following the 1953 blood donor recruiting program, was as follows:

Name

raume Andron	Husband	11
Barbara Brooks	Self	3
Vivian Cokorinas	Self	3
Shirley Eisenhand	ler	Я
il del la	Husband	19
Hannah Garibaldi	Husband	20
Emily Iaccheo	Father	10
Charles Jackson	Wife	
Howard McLaurin	Wife	8
Lucie McCray	Self	
Anne Muller	Self	3
Norma Phillips	Self	
Eleanor Rooney	Self	8
	Mother	1
Mary Wesley	Self	
,		100

Total pints contributed Red Cross Share (%) Our Bank's Share (%) Released by Local 1-S in

June Released by Macy's in June Total released to date

Balance in Bank



If you . . . your husban or wife . . . or children under 19 . . .

539

or parents (if you're single)

NEED BLOOD

FROM THE BLOOD BANK
all you have to do is

CALL WA 4-4540

And Rest Assured That Local 1-S Will Do the Res

Roosevelt Field Workers Head New Steering Committee, Protest Firing

The Roosevelt Field organizing campaign took a mighty leap forward with the first public presentation of two workers as leaders of the Local 1-S Steering Committee within the store.

The two, George Urquhart and Rick Monaco, assumed the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, and are playing a leading part in direct contact with their co-workers.

In their first leaflet to their fellow Roosevelt Fielders, the two protested, on behalf of all others who have signed cards, the firing of another employee.

The firing was the act of Personnel Manager Niemann, formerly of the Herald Square Labor Relations Department. Mr. Niemann judged a woman well enough to work, despite her doctor's statement that she wasn't.

Local 1-S protested the discharge as "most unfair," but Macy's refused to discuss the case on the grounds that the Union does not represent the Roosevelt Field workers.

Macy's Assailed

In leaflets and letters, Local 1-S sharply attacked Macy's action and pointed out that only a Union contract can provide protection against such unjust and highhanded company decisions.

In a desperate effort to sidetrack the anger of the people, Macy's spread a rumor, promptly denounced by the Union as a lie, that the woman had gone away on her sick leave against the orders of her own doctor.

Response to both the Union's campaign from the outside and the efforts of Union supporters on the inside has been outstanding. The rate at which signed cards, calling for a National Labor Relations Board election, have been coming in has increased substantially.

Many executives, formerly only too eager to follow behind the Local 1-S organizers, have been finding other things to keep them busy. Some have been heard to say that they don't want to follow any more, because they "don't want to be enemies when the Union comes in."

Meetings Go on

Despite the normal fall-off of meeting attendance during the summer months, the Union's program of regular "Question and Answer" meetings is continuing.

At these gatherings, workers

with questions come in, are shown the contract and Constitution and then either leave or stay to listen to other questions and the Union's answers to them.

Some sign cards on the spot—while others want a little more time to "think it over." And the campaign goes on!

Over 80 Groups Offer Exhibits In Health Show

The Local 1-S Welfare Board announced that more than 80 organizations will participate in the New York Health Show at the Coliseum August 6-23.

Among other things, the show will try to bring to public attention the facilities available for the fight against such diseases as mental ailments, cancer and heart disease.

The theme of the show will be public health progress of the last two decades.

The show will be open from 11 AM to 5 PM daily except Sun day. Admission is 25 cents.

PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Beautiful wedding gown, size 10-12 (Jay Thorpe) Silk Taffeta. Worn in May. Sacrifice, as is, \$35. Call YE 2-6523 or RA 1-3951 evenings.

FOR SALE—Doll coach carriage, largest size, in excellent condition. \$25. Call UN 3-7394 evenings.

FOR SALE—4 dining room or occasional chairs. Good condition. \$20. Call HA 9-1503.

FOR SALE—Long Island house on 2 acres of most beautiful grounds. Two bedrooms, large living room with open fireplace, dining room and screened porch 10'x18' and patio, two-car garage and several extrast Telephone CI 4-6029.

WANTED—Woman to share apartment. Studio room, TV, carpeting, up to date furnishings, kitchen privileges. 15 minutes to 34th Street. Location, Queens. Phone ST 4-1930 after 5 PM.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

HAZEL C BENJAMIN LIBRARIAN P O BOX 248 PRINCETOWN N J

DON'T SHOP IN ROOSEVELT FIELD UNTIL IT'S ORGANIZED: BUY UNION!

June, the he 1958 program,

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